



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Nguyen

Attorney Docket: 2000-IP-043

Serial No.: 09882,572

Group Art Unit: 3672

Filed: June 13, 2001

Examiner: William P. Neuder

For: **Method and Apparatus for Gravel Packing or Frac Packing Wells**

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JANUARY 28, 2004

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAY 20 2004

GROUP 3600

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of January 28, 2004, a Petition for Extension submitted herewith, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

1. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for treating an interval of a wellbore, said apparatus comprising:

a sand screen unit adapted to be connected to the lower end of a workstring; and
a plurality of axially spaced, substantially blank conduits on the external surface of said sand screen unit for delivering a particulate-containing fluid suspension to different axial portions of said interval when said apparatus is in an operable position within said wellbore.

2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1,
the plurality of blank conduits extending longitudinally along said external surface of said screen unit, each of said conduits extending only a portion of the length of said interval and, at least one of said conduits having a lower end that terminates at a different level within said interval than the others.